(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of changing operational requirements of Indian Railways, transfer of some staff and machinery and plant cannot be avoided in the larger national interest and the imperative need to improve operational efficiency and productivity.

[*English*]

Lease of Railway land to Housing Societies in Bombay

2876. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra requested to the Union Government to lease railway land to the co-operative housing societies of slum dwellers residing along the railway lines in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions proposed; and

(c) when the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have requested for leasing of the land at a nominal rate of 1% of the market value of Land. Railways have offered either to relinquish to the State Government the land beyond the safety zone and surplus to Railways' requirement at market rates or on exchange basis or to license this land at 6% of the market value.

(c) Further action in the matter lies with the State Government of Maharashtra.

Purchase of Boeing-747-400 for Air India

2877. SHRI RABI RAY:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase four Boeing 747-400 for the Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the American Aircraft Company has agreed to extend the deadline for the third time to finalise the deal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The purchase of four Boeing 747-400 (passenger version) aircraft, from Boeing Commercial Aeroplane Company and the engines to be installed, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1962.03 crores, including a foreign exchange component of US $ 667.09 million, is under consideration. The definitive purchase agreement is required to be signed by the 15th of August, 1991 to maintain the offered delivery schedule.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Ujjain-Bhopal Line

2878. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work in Ujjain-Bhopal section upto Makshi has been started; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed and commissioned?